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THE FRONTLINE

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OCTOBER 29, 2009



2nd HBCT cases Colors, begins deploying

Pfc. Gregory Gieske, 2nd HBCT Public Affairs

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Cormier, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, and Lt. Col. Ross Coffman, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, take part in the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's colors casing ceremony at Cottrell Field by casing their battalion Colors before deployment to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Oct. 23. See Page 16A

President voices concern for troops' missions

Lauren Hunsberger
*Coastal Courier
Special to the Frontline*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — As the 3rd Infantry Division forges ahead with its deployment schedule, most Soldiers will be headed to Iraq; how-

ever, a few troops attached to Fort Stewart are preparing for duty in Afghanistan. While details surrounding President Barack Obama's decision on the war's progression in the country are still ambiguous, Obama did speak Monday in Jacksonville about his plan.

See PRESIDENT — Page 4A

260th QM Soldiers run, 'paint the town pink'

Kaytrina Curtis
Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs

On and off the battlefield, service-members came together to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their brethren, and the Hunter Army Airfield Soldiers of the 260th Quartermaster

Battalion shouldered the distress call from one of their own.

Throughout the streets of mid-town Savannah, traffic came to a halt to allow 260th QM Bn. Soldiers to run across the roads leading to the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion, Oct. 23.

See PINK — Page 15A

'Voice of the Customer' to take installation from good to great

Pat Young
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Refusing to sit on its laurels after winning the Army's Community of Excellence Award and the Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence a fourth time, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield held its Installation Strategic Planning workshop in Hilton Head, S.C., Oct. 20-23,

which focused on customer service and the Army Family Covenant.

"Voice of the Customer - Taking us from Good to Great" was the theme of the workshop that gathered subject matter experts from the installation and surrounding communities with the vision of providing Soldier, Family Members and retirees a community of excellence to train, deploy, live and raise a Family.

See VOICE — Page 14A

90th HR returns home

Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda M. Lawson
3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

Approximately 30 Soldiers from 90th Human Resources Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade returned to Fort Stewart from a 12-month deployment to Kuwait, Saturday.

While deployed, the unit was

responsible for providing reception support and postal operations for Soldiers deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I was very proud of our young Soldiers," said Capt. Steven Jefferson, the company's executive officer. "They handled themselves as professionals. They really impressed me."

See REDEPLOY — Page 18A



Stewart, Hunter hold Great FMWR Yard Sale
9A

H1N1 Vaccine now available
See 9A

Happy Halloween!
Safety tips & events

5A





From the CSMs Desk : Introducing the new Community Liaison

Command Sgt. Major James Ervin
Garrison Command Sergeant Major

Our installation is fortunate to have a unique resource for our community. That resource is the Community Liaison Office. The CLO falls under the control of the garrison command and serves the greater Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield community. The role of the CLO focuses heavily on providing outreach services, mediation and problem solving, and acting as a liaison between residents, agencies and unit chain of command to help resolve community issues and concerns.

I am pleased to introduce our new Community Liaison at the Fort Stewart CLO, Nicci Frederick. The duties of the Community Liaison include managing the Community

Mayors program, interviewing Soldiers and Family Members during the grievance process, coordinating agency support for Soldiers and Family Members, attending neighborhood huddles and town hall meetings to collect issues for action and resolution, and working on program outreach and awareness.

Frederick has a richly varied background with experience ranging from information technology to procurement to legal assistance and even archaeology. She has a bachelor's degree in history and is currently working on a master's degree in library and information science. Such a unique blend of skills, experience, knowledge and education



means that Frederick has a lot to bring to the table to work with our community and help improve the quality of life on our installation.

Frederick started with the CLO at the end of August and has jumped right in, utilizing her skills in research, graphics design, information technology, organization, marketing and outreach to implement a number of exciting enhancements to the CLO. She has revamped most of the CLO and Community Mayor outreach and recruitment materials and created a Twitter feed and Facebook page for the CLO. Frederick has organized monthly informational seminars to begin in November where mayors and residents are invited to hear

guest speakers from different agencies and services. These seminars will help educate our community about what is available here at Fort Stewart in support services, professional services and recreation opportunities. I know we will continue to see great things from Frederick and the Community Liaison Office.

Be sure to visit the CLO Facebook page at http://companies.tol/shaaf_clo for helpful information for community members and follow the CLO on Twitter at www.twitter.com/fshaaf_clo.

If you would like to serve in the Community Mayors program or need to contact your local Community Mayor, just give Frederick a call or send an e-mail, and we'll get you the information that you need. You can reach her at 797-9717 or nichole.frederick1@conus.army.mil.

Insider's guide to Camp Beuhring

Commentary by Capt. Charles Barrett,
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – If you know someone who's in the Army and has deployed to Iraq, then there's a chance you've heard of a place called Camp Buehring. Most Army units pass through the camp on their way north, steadfast and loyal to their cause – Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For those of you who have never been there, I'm reminded of a time many years ago when I first visited Las Vegas. Our Family had been driving into the night on just another day of our vacation west. It was as dark as any night in the desert, and quiet, too; nothing but the hum of our minivan's tires on the road. Then out of the blackness was a faint light in the distance with the warm glow of something unknown.

As we approached closer the light became brighter. The blur of one light became two, and two became three and so on until we were close enough to see buildings. The sounds of the city were muted until we were right on top of it. All the stores were open, and people were everywhere carrying out different phases of their individual day; some who had just woken up, some who had just gotten off of work.

Suddenly I snap back to reality, after spending the last eight uncomfortable hours on a bus from the Kuwaiti Airport.

No alcohol, no gambling, and certainly not to the scale of Las Vegas, but Camp Buehring's sights and sounds are not entirely unlike those of Sin City.

Camp Buehring is located in the desert in Kuwait; to be more precise, I'd say somewhere in the middle. There's sand and rock and moon dust. Moon dust is like baby powder that floats through the breeze generated by passing vehicles. A Soldier's walking path is often determined by the direction the wind is blowing

so as to not be caught in a moon dust cloud. There's also no shortage of sunshine.

We arrive at midnight and we are ushered into a tent to receive mandatory briefings on various rules and regulations, things we may not have known or had forgotten about since our last trip here. An hour passes and before we know it, we're back outside standing around a truck watching a handful of guys unload duffel bags and rucksacks while each person on the sidelines is trying to find theirs without getting in the way. To each our own as we shuffle off to our tents to claim our cots.

Captain Matt McFarland points me in the direction of the dining facility, and along with a couple other Sledgehammer Soldiers, I head to chow. It's sometime after 1:30 a.m. and there's a line, but the food and the company make up for the wait. I could just as easily been finishing up a losing streak at the craps table in a casino and called it quits while I still had enough money for the buffet.

I set my alarm early hoping to get a jump on the next day, but I wake up in the afternoon. I blame it on jet lag and drive on. Every morning at 6 a.m., the camp stops what they are doing while the flag is raised. Afterwards, music is played over the loud speakers. It's the theme music from the movie Patton. I smile as I hum along to the tune, blissfully unaware I'll be singing it in my head for the rest of the day. Then I remember it's also the theme music to the movie Police Academy, and I no longer know if I should be happy or sad.

Over the next two weeks, Soldiers prepare equipment, complete mandatory training and plan future operations. When not conducting a training mission, Soldiers can be found at the gym or on the volleyball and basketball courts. There's a chapel and a movie theater with popcorn. No, the chapel doesn't have popcorn, but I'm sure it's been suggested. There's a

USO with computers and a café. You know a café is good because it has that little mark over the letter "e." Soldiers are gaming on XBOX, Play Station and Wii. There are phone banks and board games and a place where parents can read to their kids and have the DVD mailed home. There's a big PX and a little one, a post office, and a finance center. There's a stage for concerts, a Baskin Robins and a Starbucks coffee that, yes, a WiFi. I almost forgot to mention the alterations shop and the gift shop, the barber shop and the jewelry shop; sorry guys.

The downside to all this, you ask? That's right, there's no pool. What we do have, however, are long blistering walks, cots with no mercy, and the ever-present, ever-malodorous porta-potties. It's late October and we've probably been averaging around 99 degrees, but at least there's no humidity, right?

More importantly, however, we can't share this time with our Families. Sure the communications are better, but it's not the same. While you're waiting in line for a phone you can hear, "I miss you," and "I love you," from the Soldier in front of you knowing that you'll be saying the same thing just as soon as your turn comes around.

Camp Buehring may not be all the sights and sounds of Las Vegas, but it's where the Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division will call home for two or three weeks. I'm sure if Criss Angel were here, he'd mind freak us all by making a swimming pool appear and turning moon dust into water.

Anyway, I believe I speak for the rest of the Sledgehammer Soldiers when I say that we are all really looking forward to getting into Iraq, getting this mission successfully accomplished, and coming home safe. Until next time, these have been my Observations from The Hill: Iraq Edition.

National American Indian Heritage Month Observance

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. , Nov. 5
Woodruff Theater

4th IBC T hosting event with guest
speaker Patty Talahongva

Join us to learn about "Our peoples: Giving Voice to
Our Histories!" Entertainment provided. American
Indian lunch at Vanguard Dining Facility following
observance.

We're here to help!

Did you know that in the U.S., one person completes suicide every 16 minutes? Or that it's estimated that more than five million people in the U.S. have been directly affect by a suicide? Or that 52 percent of all persons who die by use of a firearm, kept in the home allegedly for safety, kill themselves?

Experts believe that most suicidal individuals do not want to die. They just want to end the pain they are experiencing. Experts know that suicidal crises tend to be brief. When suicidal behaviors are detected early, lives can be saved. There are services available in our military community for the assessment and treatment of suicidal behaviors and their underlying causes.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a life-threatening emergency or is attempting to commit suicide, the first response is to call 911. For other urgent mental health concerns, specialists are available:

During Normal Duty Hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.):

Fort Stewart Behavioral Health Clinic (1083 Worcester Avenue, building 9242): (912) 767-1654

Fort Stewart Family Life Chaplains: (912) 767-1814/5409

Mental Health Community/Military and Family Life Consultants: (1083 Worcester Avenue, building 9242): (912) 767-1647

Family Support Issues/Family Readiness Center, (191 Lindquist Road, building 87), (912) 767-5058

Hunter Army Airfield Tuttle Army Health Clinic (230 Duncan Drive, building 1440): (912) 315-4240/6125

During Non-Duty hours:
Winn Army Community Emergency Room, (1061 Harmon Ave): 911

On Call Chaplain: Contact the Division Operations Center (24/7) at (912) 435-9732/9733 to request chaplain assistance for yourself or for someone you believe is depressed and in danger of harming themselves.

Suicide Prevention Hotline Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Army OneSource Help Line 1-800-342-9647

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY • OCT. 24, 2009



Vanguards reach out to community

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk
4th IBCT Public Affairs

Every year, on the fourth Saturday of October, millions of people across the U.S. reach out to those in need as part of a national day to help others. This year, Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division joined in on the nationwide effort and turned "Make a Difference Day" into an ongoing community outreach program.

"This is an opportunity for the Soldiers to give back to a community, which often gives back to us," said Lt. Col. George Lewis, commander of 4-3 Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th IBCT. "It didn't take a special day for the Soldiers to do this."

About a month ago, Lt. Col. Lewis' wife, Michelle, jump-started an initiative to help local high school students. Combining Make a Difference Day with 4-3 BSTB's Adopt-a-School program, she came up with the idea to donate formal and semi-formal gowns to Bradwell Institute students who are unable to afford them.

"I know it can be expensive. So, (we wanted) to be able to offset the cost and still give them (Bradwell students) that Cinderella feel," Michelle said, adding that the 4-3 BSTB Soldiers helped donate more than 100 dresses, Oct. 20.

One 4-3 Soldier, Pfc. Julia Sanders, said she donated four gowns.

"I have a lot of dresses," she said. "It's nice to be able to give back, and these girls can look just as good as everyone else without having to spend money."

Sergeant Emily Iler donated three dresses. She said she too had several gowns she's worn at weddings and Army formals.

Michelle said the battalion is still accepting dress donations and hopes that every Bradwell Institute student will be able to attend senior prom in May 2010.

It's in a book

The Vanguard Brigade's Headquarters Company also gave back to their adopted school as Soldiers read books to Kessler

Elementary School children at Fort Stewart, Oct. 21.

Company Commander Capt. Robert Gordon said that reading to the children helps some cope with deployment. He said the children tend to associate a uniformed Soldier with their deployed parent and enjoy the Soldiers' visit.

Private First Class Michelle Robinson, HHC, said this was her second time reading to Kessler students.

"I love reading to the kids," she said, adding that she likes to volunteer. "They (the children) love to see the Soldiers."

Captain Gordon said his Soldiers plan to revisit Kessler next month.

Four-legged friends

While some 4th IBCT units reached out to students, Soldiers with the 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, made a difference for the four-legged community members. Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Robert Reynolds; his spouse, Carol; and Troop B's 2nd Lt. Richard Eherenmen, Staff Sgt. Jesse Deloatch, Cpl. Jeff Hissen and Spc. Zachary Wilson spent Oct. 24 at the Liberty County Humane Society. The Mustang team tended to and cared for nearly 40 dogs and 50 cats who reside at the shelter.

"There is so much that we're trying to do for the community," said Staff Sgt. Deloatch, while he helped clean and organize one of the shelter's storage rooms.

The 6/8 Cavalry Soldiers also fed and washed the animals during their visit. They said their unit plans to take part in other community outreach programs before the 4th IBCT's next deployment.

The Liberty County Humane Society is also accepting donations. Donate dog or cat food, cat litter, blankets or towels to 279 Briarwood Circle off Airport Road. For more information, contact Traci Wheeler at 767-9310.

See next week's Frontline to read about how 4th IBCT Soldiers are helping each other in an operation dubbed "Vanguard Vittles."

Photos by Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk

LEFT: Second Lieutenant Richard Eherenmen, Troop B, 6/8 Cav., feeds puppies at the Liberty County Humane Society as part of the Vanguard Brigade's 'Make a Difference Day' program, Oct. 24.



Soldiers of 4-3 BSTB, 4th IBCT donated more than 100 formal and semi-formal dresses to Bradwell Institute students as part of the Vanguard Brigade's Make a Difference Day program, Oct. 20.



Sergeant William Krauser, HHC, 4th IBCT, reads to kindergarten students at Kessler Elementary School as part of the Vanguard Brigade's 'Make a Difference Day' program, Oct. 21.



3 STB leads by example, make a difference



Krystal Britton

Soldiers and Family Members from 3 STB participate in national Make A Difference Day with a clean-up project in the City of Hinesville, Oct. 24.

Krystal R. Britton

City of Hinesville Public Relations

Soldiers from the 3rd Special Troops Battalion, under the Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Whitney, set out early Saturday morning to participate in national Make A Difference Day, Oct. 24.

Twenty-five 3rd STB Soldiers and their Family Members cleaned along Frank Cochran Drive outside of Gate 8 in Hinesville, Ga., for two and a half hours as part of their battalion's fall clean-up.

"This day is about setting an example," City of Hinesville Mayor James Thomas explained. "Our goal is to encourage citizens to participate."

Setting a good example is exactly what Command Sgt. Maj. Whitney had

in mind when he approved the volunteer project.

"The city can't do it all," Command Sgt. Maj. Whitney said. "They do their best. We just put in a helping hand. This is the least we can do for the community that does so much to support us."

As the group moved along the highway, picking up everything from soda cans to paper bags to cigarette buds, they all stressed the importance of leading by example.

"It's important to keep the environment clean," Staff Sgt. Stevie Smoke, 3rd STB said. "We want the younger people to see adults out doing something constructive. I have been in Hinesville for seven years so this is my second home, and I want to keep my house clean."

3SB donates clothing, toys, time

Jessica Obermeyer
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division joined Col. Shawn Morrissey, 3rd Sustainment Bde. commander and 3 Sustainment Bde. Command Sgt. Major Clifton Johnson to donate boxes of collected goods as part of the national volunteer effort, "Make A Difference Day," Oct. 23.

The truckload of boxes filled with clothing, toys and other necessities were donated to the Gabriel House in Hinesville, Ga.

To give a helping hand to their neighbors, 3rd Sustainment Bde. contacted the Gabriel House to offer support. The Gabriel House is a child care institution. Children who have been removed from their homes due to unsafe living environment are placed in the house by Division of Family and Children Services referrals.

"Make a Difference Day is very important to us because we all have our stories, and we can relate to different things," said Col. Morrissey. "The Gabriel House here in Hinesville does miraculous things and often helps our Soldiers when our Families, unfortunately, have issues."

After giving Wendy Dunwoody, the assistant director and case manager at the Gabriel House, and Diane Groover, operations manager, a coin of excellence,

Command Sgt. Maj. Johnson reminded those in attendance who the true heroes are.

"It takes a big heart to do what you guys are doing," he said. "We truly appreciate what you guys are doing, so keep doing this for America."

According to Col. Morrissey, the brigade spent six weeks collecting the goods and clothing. The staff at Gabriel House said they are grateful for the donations and will put them to good use.

"This is a huge help for us," said Groover. "We will go through each of the boxes and see which items will fit each child."

Currently, there are 21 children at the Gabriel House, which opened in 2004, said Dunwoody. The Gabriel House admits children from birth up to the age of 18. School-age children are required to go to school and counseling. In addition, the facility offers optional tutoring and spiritual enrichment.

"We are just very grateful that they are interested in helping us," said Groover. "They come and help us and do things for our children. It's very rewarding. It's very heart-felt that they love the children, the way we do."

Dunwoody said that if anyone in the community is interested in volunteering at the Gabriel House, all that is required is a volunteer application, background check, and a big heart.



Jessica Obermeyer

Specialist Alexander Barroga, 135th QM Co. (left) and Spc. Olawale Abolaji, 24th Finance Co.; both with the 3rd Sustainment Bde., help unload the truckload of boxes donated to the Gabriel House in Hinesville, Ga., as part of "Make A Difference Day," Oct. 23.

BARRACK'S LIFE: Celebrate Halloween safely

Spc. Jared S. Eastman
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

Hello, Barrack's Rats. There's a few things on the horizon that, for some reason, cause Soldiers to go raving mad. This would be All Souls' Day and, of course, deployment for most. Oddly enough, neither of these events should warrant test-driving your newly-built Batmobile on Rt. 144 with an open beer and a buddy dressed as Robin. Night falls all too quickly this time of year, and 144 is not called the "Green Mile" for kicks.

All Hallow's Eve safety is important around Savannah and Hinesville. Most bars are having a costume party, and all

of Savannah is sure to be packed. But remember, just because you are dressed like Superman doesn't mean you are, no matter how drunk you get. Wear your seatbelts, don't drive drunk, and if you know you can't make it, call a buddy. All companies have a duty noncommissioned officer to call, and most company commanders and first sergeants would rather pick someone up at oh-dark-thirty from a Savannah sidewalk than the MP station.

First Heavy Brigade Combat Team is scheduled to return from the National



Training Center right before Halloween and most brigades who are still at Fort Stewart will be looking toward deployment in the near future. So if you're going anywhere, even as a designated driver, always worry about the car to your left and right. Use the situational awareness the Army has instilled in all its Soldiers to keep an escape route in mind. Though not always possible, try to make sure you have some room in any direction, whether it is back, forward, left or right, to maneuver in the case of an accident or a weaving vehicle.

The closer we get to deployment, the more Soldiers tend to take risks. But if the next risk is your last, is it worth it? Is it worth risking driving home three-sheets to the wind to avoid a tired first sergeant when you could have an entire company picking you up from the MP station or attending your memorial ceremony? Heavy stuff for a Thursday right before the weekend, but keep in mind that there are more than enough options to party and make it home safely that night, or even the next day. There are always Soldiers out there willing to wake up, down an energy drink and drive to pick you up. You may end up paying for gas, but it's better than any alternative if you are unfit to drive.

PRESIDENT

from Page 1A

Just hours after 14 American fatalities occurred in Afghanistan, the president addressed servicemembers and civilians at Jacksonville Naval Air Station about his strategy for Afghanistan, including the decision to send more troops into the area.

"While I will never hesitate to use force to protect the American people or our vital interests, I also promise you this, and this is very important as we consider our next steps in Afghanistan, I will never rush the solemn decision of sending you into harm's way," Obama said. "I won't risk your lives unless it is absolutely necessary. And if it is necessary, we will back you up to the hilt."

Obama said his main concern there is to prevent the country from becoming a safe-haven for al-Qaida and other extremists.

The top commander in the area, Gen. Stanley McCrystal,

has said he needs more troops in order to be successful, but Obama said he will not rush any decisions concerning the war or those he sends into it.

He said that no matter what the final decision is, one thing Soldiers will not have to worry about is their Families, as one thing remains the same.

"As you meet your missions around the world, we will take care of your Families here at home," the president said.

Officials at Fort Stewart said there are no plans to send troops to Afghanistan, other than those who are already scheduled to go.

"Our Combat Aviation Brigade, about 3,000 Soldiers, is deploying to Afghanistan," said Fort Stewart Spokesman Kevin Larson.

He also said there are about 150 military police currently in Afghanistan.

Obama also took the chance to let servicemembers know how much he



Lewis Levine

President Barack Obama speaks to military servicemembers and civilians at Jacksonville Naval Air Station about his plans for the war in Afghanistan, Oct. 26.

appreciates all they do for the country.

"So, I say to you today, and

all those who serve, of all the privileges I have as president, I have no greater honor

than serving as your commander-in-chief," he said. "You inspire me."

What is depression?

Depression is more than just feeling a little blue for a few days. Its a common but serious medical condition that can affect anyone – men, women, children – at any time, at any age. On average, approximately 16 million new cases of depression are diagnosed in the U.S. each year. Less than two-thirds of people diagnosed however, ever receive care. Depression comes in many forms and has a variety of symptoms.

Physical symptoms may include body aches and pains, irritability, anxiety and for some people, thoughts of suicide or death. Emotional symptoms of depression may include sadness, loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed, feelings of guilt or worthlessness, restlessness, withdrawing from family and friends, trouble concentrating or making decisions.

If you find yourself struggling with depression, contact:

During Normal Duty Hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.):

Fort Stewart Behavioral Health Clinic, 1083 Worcester Avenue, building 9242: (912) 767-1654

Fort Stewart Family Life Chaplains: (912) 767-1814/5409

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www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Army OneSource Help Line 1-800-342-9647

Marne Voices Speak Out

What is your favorite Halloween costume?

See page 5A for Halloween safety tips & events

"Tinkerbell because she can fly and sprinkles pixie dust."

Samantha Jones
Age 4



"A pirate. I like that you get to wear a fake parrot and the costume is unique."

Alyssa Vazquez
Age 13



"Jason. I like his mask"

Matthew Vazquez
Age 9



"If I was going to dress up, I would be a lawyer, because that's the career I want to pursue."

Antoinette Brown
Age 17



Andrew: "A vampire. I'll wear fake teeth and fake blood."
Alex: "An alien. I'll have green alien teeth."

Andrew & Alex Skelton
Age 4



"Sleeping beauty because I get to wear a crown and makeup."

Madison Richards
Age 6

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

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stewfrontline@conus.army.mil
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Make this Halloween a safe, fun Halloween

Installation Safety Office

Have a safe Halloween. Halloween parties and trick or treating can be loads of fun, if it is safe fun. Most people are aware of potential Halloween dangers; such as tampered with candy, but parents and children often overlook hazards that can be equally tragic. The Safety Office offers the following tips for Halloween:

- Keep matches, candles and lighted Jack-O-Lanterns out of the reach of small children, and away from flammable materials such as draperies, furniture and paper decorations.

- Young children should always go trick-or-treating with an adult.
- Never trick-or-treat alone. Have at least two buddies to go with you.
- Wear costumes with bright colors, so you can be seen in the dark.
- Put reflective tape on your costumes and trick-or-treat bag.
- Have an adult check your costume for fire safety.
- Make sure long costumes won't cause you to trip.
- Wear shoes that fit and have low heels so you

won't fall.

- Use a flashlight when walking at night. Never carry a torch or candle while trick-or-treating.
- Visit only houses where the lights are on.
- Accept treats only in the doorway. Never go inside a house.
- Be sure to say "thank you" for your treats.
- Cross the street at the corner or in a crosswalk.
- Wait until you get home and your parents check your candy before you eat it.
- Instruct your child to scream and make a scene if anyone tries to grab them or force them in any way to go with them.



Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk, 4th IBCB Public Affairs

4IBCT starts Halloween early

Soldiers and Family Members assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, jumpstart their Halloween festivities with a fun-run at Fort Stewart, Oct. 23. The unit hosted the walk/run to build camaraderie and foster esprit de corps.

Youth Halloween activities

'Haunted Ghost' trip

Make new friends and learn about points of interest in greater Savannah area! The trip departs Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield for Savannah's Historic District at 9:45 a.m., Saturday. Sign-Up deadline is today. The trip includes round trip transportation, "haunted ghost" trolley car tour, submarine sandwich and supervision. Open to CYSS registered youth in grades 4-12. No charge. To sign-up and for details, contact School Liaison Offices, 767-6533 at Fort Stewart, or 315-6586 at Hunter.

Corkan Halloween Happenings

Corkan Recreation will hold numerous activities for Families on Halloween, Saturday:

Visit Cypress Sam's Treehouse, building 449, in costume from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and receive a treat bag when you leave after playing. Call 767-9884 for more information.

Enjoy mini-golf after dark at Cypress Creek Adventure Golf, building 448, from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cost is \$1 per game per person when you come in costume. Call 767-9884 for more information.

Bowl for \$1.75 per game per person when you come in costume Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, building 450, from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call 767-4273 for more information.

Come to Corkan Teen Recreation Center, building 438, from 3-11 p.m.

Call 767-3781 for more information.

There will be a Haunted Gym at Corkan Family Fun Center, building 449, beginning at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per Family of four. Come visit the spooky, but fun site of Corkan Family Fun Center. Give us a call if you would like to volunteer to be part of the Haunted Gym for Halloween Night. For more information, call 767-9884.

Youth Halloween special

Marne Lanes Bowling Center, building 402, will offer a special from 4-6 p.m., Saturday. For \$3.50, you get a slice of cheese pizza with small drink and one game of bowling with shoe rental. A prize will go to the person with the best costume. Join in the fun on the scariest night while you bowl in the dark! For more information, call 767-4866.

Trunk or Treat

Hand candy out from trunk of your vehicle instead of your home for a safe, fun and friendly experience, from 6-8 p.m., Saturday. The event will be held at the ACS Family Enrichment Center, building 82 (Haunted House-ACS Playground) at Fort Stewart, and at the Hunter Club Parking Lot. Trunk or Treat is sponsored by ACS. Advanced registration is required to hand out candy from your vehicle. Bring your trick or treaters. For details, call ACS at 767-5058 at Fort Stewart, and 315-6816 at Hunter.

STEWART-HUNTER BRIEFS

Weekend dining facility hours posted

Weekend Dining Facility hours for Oct. 31-Nov. 1 is Vanguard Dining Facility, building 512. Fort Stewart dining facility weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for supper. The Hunter Army Airfield weekend dining facility for Oct. 31-Nov. 1 is the 1/75 Ranger Dining Facility, building 110. Hunter Army Airfield dining facility weekend serving hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for brunch, and 4:30-6 p.m. for supper.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building 12902/02 in the National Guard training area, is open on weekends. The WTB serving hours are breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and dinner, 5-6:30 p.m.

Tuttle optometry clinic open

Having problems reading this? Then maybe you are one of 1,000 who need to pick-up your glasses at the Tuttle Army Health Clinic Optometry Clinic. If you have received a phone call from Tuttle's Optometry Clinic stating that your glasses/inserts are ready, simply stop-by and pick-up weekdays after 1 p.m. If you need to inquire about your glasses, call after 1 p.m.

Hunter gas kiosk has new hours

A new gas kiosk is now open at Hunter, located at 8804 S. Perimeter Rd., by Rio Gate. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

CAB DFAC closure announced

The CAB Dining Facility, building 1213, is closed through Saturday. Soldiers may dine at the following DFACs:

Hunter : Ranger DFAC, building 110
Fort Stewart: 4th IBCF DFAC, building 512; 3rd SB DFAC, building 725; WTB DFAC, building 12902.

OSC bazaar cancelled

Unfortunately, the OSC Holiday Bazaar scheduled for Nov. 7 has been cancelled due to lack of vendor participation.

East 7th Street closed

East 7th St. between French Rd. and Niles Ave. is closed due to the construction of the new Soldier Family Assistance Center.

Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed for the duration of the construction. Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes in traffic patterns around the area. Call 228-7451 for more information. Fort Stewart Commissary will be having a "Sidewalk Sale"

Commissary sidewalk sale slated

Fort Stewart Commissary will be having a "Sidewalk Sale," from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Oct. 29-30; from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Oct. 31; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 1.

Commissary holiday hours announced

In observance of Veteran's Day, the Fort Stewart Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with no Early Bird Hours, Nov. 11.

Wilson Blvd to be closed

Horace Emmet Wilson Blvd. will be closed from South Lightening Rd. to Middleground Rd. to Monk St. during the 3rd CAB's casing of the colors ceremony from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Nov. 4.

Balfour Beatty Communities

Cell Phones available for Soldiers

Help Soldiers overseas call home. By donating any old cell phone, you can help provide calling cards for Soldiers serving overseas. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad. Starting Nov. 2, there will be Drop off boxes at Balfour Beatty Communities Liberty Woods Leasing Office and the Southern Oaks Community Center at Fort Stewart, and Balfour Beatty Communities Management Office and the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center at Hunter.

Care and Share Food Drive slated

Help others in need have a happy Thanksgiving. Drop off non-perishable items that can be donated to a local charity to be made into food baskets for Families in need. There will be drop off boxes at Balfour Beatty Communities Liberty Woods Leasing Office and the Southern Oaks Community Center at Fort Stewart, and at at Balfour Beatty Communities Management Office and the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center at Hunter, Nov. 2-20.

Come see Sidewalk Chalk Art

Come show your artistic side by decorating our sidewalk to welcome people into our community center using sidewalk chalk! We'll also have bubbles, jump ropes and hula hoops to play with! At Fort Stewart, come to the Southern Oaks Community Center from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Nov. 4. At Hunter, join us at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center from 5-6 p.m., Nov. 3.

Fort Stewart

Join us for Wrestling Mania

If you're a fan of WWF wrestling then you don't want to miss this event. A group of amateur wrestlers will be taking the ring for a night of bone crunching, body slamming madness! It will be a fight night you won't forget! Join us at the basketball court at our Liberty Woods Leasing Office from 4-5 p.m., Nov. 7.

For more information about events, contact your LifeWorks Coordinator, Amber Humphries at 408-2478 or ahumphries@bbcgrp.com.

Armed Services Blood Program Blood Drive

Newman Fitness Center

Friday • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We Need Your Help

Our mission is to:

- Provide blood products to U.S. forces deployed overseas.
- Provide blood for military hospitals at home.
- Verify eligible population critical to DoD blood sup-

plies. Those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan cannot donate for one year. Those who spent more than six months in Europe between 1980-1996 cannot donate indefinitely (Mad Cow Disease risk).

You can make an appointment online at:

www.militaryblood.dod.mil

ASBP is a tri-service, DoD agency created to provide blood for the military Family.

Education Matters



Ed Centers re-open

The Army Continuing Education System (Education Center) central contract issues at the Department of the Army Level have been resolved. As of Oct. 22, the Directorate of Human Resources ACES services of Army Personnel Testing and Academic Testing are once again available, and the Army Learning Centers have been reopened. For more information, contact Dave Nalisnick at 767-2555.

Source available for Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33, is a non-contributory benefit (no up-front payment required by Soldiers) for those who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The Veterans Administration Web site at www.gibill.va.gov provides in-depth eligibility information and a link to the on-line application. It also includes all information and steps concerning transferability to Family Members.

Individuals currently eligible for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty or other similar programs, can continue under their program or make the decision to transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Since the choice is irrevocable, it will not be possible to switch back to the previous VA benefit program. It is recommended that you research the differences by clicking on the “More About the Post-9/11 GI Bill” bar and then selecting the benefit comparison chart link. Also try www.gibill.va.gov/CH33Estimator, which calculates the eligible tuition, fees and housing allowance for your zip code.

If you have questions after exploring the web-site, call 888-442-4551.

CTC Teaching degree added to SOC

The Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges has approved Central Texas College’s AA in teaching nomination to serve Soldiers at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. What this will mean is that the courses taken under CTC’s Associate in Teacher Education and Early Childhood will transfer to other SOC schools.

SOC was created in 1972 to provide educational

opportunities to Servicemembers who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees. Now, the SOC Consortium consists of approximately 1,800 institutional members who enroll hundreds of thousands of Servicemembers, their Family Members, and veterans annually in associate, bachelor, and graduate level degree programs within the United States and overseas. CTC and the other on-post schools (Columbia College, Embry Riddle University, Savannah Technical College and Webster University) offer their programs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield to the general public.

College Day Open House scheduled

In honor of American Education Week, a variety of local and out of area college representatives will have displays and answer your questions concerning available programs including distance learning opportunities. The Hunter Education Center in building 1290, will conduct their College Fair from 9-11:30 a.m., Nov. 17. On Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the colleges will be on hand throughout the Sgt.1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100. Everyone is invited to stop by your local Education Center to meet with the colleges and explore your education options. For more information, call 767-8331.

Savannah Tech information offered

Savannah Technical College is offering weekly information sessions to explain its college/certificate/diploma programs and the HOPE/PELL grants. The college representatives will highlight a different program of study at 2 p.m., every other Tuesday in room 206, building 100, Fort Stewart. The Nov. 3 presentation will detail the Auto Collision Repair diploma requirements.

Of special interest to Family Members is the Technical Communication Specialist certificate, which enables much of the curriculum to transfer to area colleges. Many required courses for Savannah Tech’s programs are taught at the Sgt.1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. For more information, go to www.savannahtech.edu and www.gsfc.org or call 408-2430 at Stewart. You may also contact the Savannah Tech Campus in Hinesville at 408-3024 or in Savannah, 443-5700.

Free FAFSA workshop offered

Do you want assistance in filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid or PELL Grant application? Savannah Technical College in Hinesville is offering free workshops which are open to our military community. The sessions are held at the Airport Road Liberty Campus media center at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Nov. 4.

You do not have to be a Savannah Tech student to attend. Please bring your 2008 income tax returns, and if you are military or a military spouse, a copy of a Leave and Earnings Statement and combat pay information is also required. You may review the application form at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

For additional information call 408-2430.

Funding available to spouses

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts Program, "MyCAA" is for military spouses of active-duty and activated Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

This centralized, virtual program provides counseling and funding up to \$6,000 to assist with licensure, certification or education opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities; trade programs or college degrees.

You may use the school of your choice, either selecting classroom or on-line delivery. All on-post and most area schools participate.

This process is all done on-line and by phone with Military One Source 1-800-342-9647. For complete details and to initiate an account, click on <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>.

E-mail counselor-support available

Need to reach an Army education counselor? Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield education centers offer a one-stop e-mail address to help. Just contact them via e-mail at stewcounselor@conus.army.mil.

Take CLEP, DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 767-7558 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$92 and DSSTs are \$100 for non-military examinees.



Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Intramural Basketball League Sign-Up @ Fort Stewarts & Hunter Army Airfield

FS: Newman Fitness Center, Bldg. 439

HAAF: Tominac Fitness Centers Bldg. 919

Company-level basketball league forming for Active Duty Soldiers only.

Companies interested should contact their Sports Office.

For details and registration, call 767-8238 (FS) or 315-4160 (HAAF).

USA Express to Perform for Soldiers @ FS

3-4 Nov., 7 p.m.

Rocky’s Zone Soldiers Recreation Center, Bldg. 703

USA Express, Army Entertainment Division’s deployable musical performance group, brings a “high energy format” and full range of musical genres (Rock, Country, R&B, Pop and Latin) to entertain Soldiers at Rocky’s. No charge to attend. Members of the performance group are selected from prior U.S. Army Soldier Show casts and from direct auditions/applications. 767-4316

Veterans Appreciation 5K Turkey Trot Fun Run/Walk @ HAAF

5 Nov. early sign-up deadline; Race 7 Nov., 11 a.m.

Tominac Fitness Center, Bldg. 919

Participants encouraged to display their patriotism for event. You may check in and register from 9-10 a.m. on race day. Children and jogging strollers allowed on course. Awards presented to top overall finisher (male and female) and top three finishers in each age category. Most patriotic participant receives a getaway to Oceanside Inn & Suites on Jekyll Island. T-shirts for all participants. Pre-registration Fees: \$15 (Military ID cardholders) and \$20 (all others) at Tominac Fitness Center, Bldg 919, FS Leisure Activities Center, Bldg 443 or go online at www.active.com. Race Day Registration Fees: \$20 (Military ID Cardholders) and \$25 (All others). 315-2019.

Jaguars vs Bills Football Trip

5 Nov. Registration deadline; Trip 22 Nov.

Jacksonville, Fla.

Depart from Stewart Leisure Activities Center, Bldg. 443 for Jacksonville.

See Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Buffalo Bills battle it out on the field.

Cost \$63 includes game ticket and bus transportation. For details, call 767-2841.

Okefenokee Swamp Trip

6 Nov. Registration deadline; Trip 14 Nov.

Waycross, GA.

Depart Stewart Leisure Travel Office, Bldg. 443 for a day of fun exploring Okefenokee Swamp. Tour consists of boat and train ride, plus demonstrations with snakes and alligators. Please bring your lunch. Cost \$20 per person includes bus transportation and tour. For details, call 767-2841 (FS) or 315-3674 (HAAF).

Thanksgiving Sunday Brunch @ HAAF

8 Nov., 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Hunter Club, Bldg. 6015

Menu features breakfast items and traditional Thanksgiving favorites turkey & dressing, baked ham, baked chicken and candied yams. The cost is as follows: CPL and below: \$12.95 for adults, \$6.47 for children 5-10, children under 5 are free. SGT and above and all others: \$14.95 for adults, \$7.47 for children 5-10, children under 5 are free.

For more information, call 459-7923.

Spaghetti Nite @ Stewart Lanes

8 Nov., 3-6 p.m.

Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, Bldg. 450

Celebrate this night with our bowling special for \$7.50 per person (spaghetti dinner w/bread, fountain drink, 2 x games bowling and shoe rental). Eat, drink and bowl! 767-4273.

Personal protection: it's your responsibility

Chief Gary J. Glemboski
Directorate of Emergency Services
Hunter Army Airfield

In this last column presented for Crime Prevention month, I thought it would be appropriate to address the issue of personal protection. Being physically attacked can be a very damaging event, both physically and mentally. Preparing for this eventuality is something few people ever consider. Buying a gun, pepper spray or a Taser often gives a false sense of security and can prove more dangerous to the victim if not properly employed. What you decide is a personal choice, but there are no guarantees.

Anyone can be a victim. According to

the FBI, in 2007 there were 26,839 aggravated assaults in Georgia – a 3.9 percent increase over 2006. With this in mind, we should all practice our awareness strategies daily to help avoid becoming a victim. But, there are some additional tactics we should be alert to.

Make yourself a hard target. As mentioned previously, keep your mind on your surroundings – who's in front of and who's behind you. Don't get distracted. Walk purposefully, stand tall, and make eye contact with people around you. Criminals do not like confrontation. They like anonymity and easy targets. Should you resist? Everyone and every situation is different. This is a decision you have to make long before you become involved in an assault situ-

ation.

Even if you are a trained martial artist or accomplished with firearms, that alone will not guarantee a successful outcome in an assault. There are many variables you have no control over. You will not choose the location – your attacker will. He will wait until he is sure he can be successful – surprise will be on his side. You may have your children, husband or wife with you – what will be the risk to them if you resist? Again, there are many decisions that must be made before you find yourself in a dangerous situation.

If you are attacked, keep your head, stay as composed as possible and evaluate all of your options and resources. It may not be advisable to resist and risk

severe injury or death. You will have to make this decision based on the circumstances. If the attacker has a weapon, the situation can become very dangerous. Keep assessing the situation as it evolves. If one strategy doesn't work, try another. Possible options include negotiating, stalling for time, distracting the assailant or fleeing to a safe place. Strategies like verbal assertiveness or screaming may also be effective. You may be able to turn the attacker off with unusual behavior such as throwing up, acting crazy, or stating you have a sexually transmitted disease. Physical resistance should always be your last option. Whatever you decide, the ultimate responsibility for your protection lies with you.

\$500 REWARD OFFERED

A reward of \$500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of four Panasonic 42 inch plasma televisions, which occurred between April 12 and 13, from a storage cage in building 3012, West 15th St., Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314. Anyone with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the Fort Stewart CID Office, 30th MP DET (CID), 3rd MP Group (CID), Fort Stewart, Ga. at (912) 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort

Stewart, Ga (912) 767-4895. (912) 767-4895. The reward expires April 20, 2010.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided. The reward expires May 29, 2010.

\$1,000 REWARD OFFERED

A reward of \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for an armed robbery, which occurred on Oct. 24, 2008 at building 3004, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.

Anyone having knowledge of the inci-

dent, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the

information provided.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart, Ga. at (912) 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, Ga. (912) 767-4895. The reward expires April 20, 2010.

LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Christopher Rudzinski**, 293rd MP Co., 385th MP Bn., Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, please contact 1st Lt. Robert Morris, 385th MP Bn., Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, (912) 767-8025.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Fernando Arroyoramos Jr.**, D Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd CAB, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. 31409, please contact Chief Warrant Officer Paul Cotton, 3rd CAB, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, (912) 660-5083.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Eric William Hario**, A Co., 1/75 Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, please contact Capt. Ramon A. Ramos, HHC, 1/75 Ranger Regiment, (912) 414-4024.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Roberto Daniel Sanchez**, B Co., 1/75 Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, please contact Capt. Ramon A. Ramos, HHC, 1/75 Ranger Regiment, (912) 414-4024.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Jason Sean Dahlke**, A Co., 1/75 Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, please contact Capt. Ramon A. Ramos, HHC, 1/75 Ranger Regiment, (912) 414-4024.

Anyone having any claims or obligations to the estate of **Staff Sgt. James R. Stright** of C Co 3/160th SOAR(A) should contact the Summary Court Officer, Capt. Robert Harless via the SDO at (912) 315-7680.

Winn receives 3,050 doses of H1N1 vaccine

Kevin Larson

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Winn Army Community Hospital received 3,050 doses of the H1N1 vaccine this week.

Thanks to the generosity of the Liberty County Public Health Department and the Coastal Health District, Winn Army Community Hospital's Preventive Medicine Clinic has an early arrival of 250 doses of the H1N1 vaccine.

In addition to the 250 doses of the H1N1 vaccine generously provided by the Liberty County Public Health Department and the Coastal Health District to kick-off the Drive-Thru Flu Clinic, Winn Army Community

Hospital's Preventive Medicine Clinic received the highly-anticipated 2,800 H1N1 vaccine mists Wednesday from the State of Georgia.

"The H1N1 vaccines will be given to healthy Family Members, Retirees and their Family Members between the ages of 2 and 49," said Col. Paul Cordts, commander, Winn Army Community Hospital. "Vaccine for our beneficiaries is distributed via the State of Georgia, and vaccine for active-duty Soldiers is distributed via Department of Defense."

These H1N1 doses, as well as seasonal flu vaccines, are available during the Drive-Thru Flu Clinic underway now through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Winn's Overflow Parking area.

The first 250 H1N1 vaccines were given to Winn's Preventive Medicine Clinic by Liberty County Health Department's Deidre Howell and Coastal Health District's Dr. Douglas Skelton.

"We have established a great working relationship with Howell, Skelton, and the organizations in monitoring and preventing seasonal flu and H1N1 flu," said Maj. Shannon Ellis, chief, Winn's Preventive Medicine. "This is a perfect example of the great relationship we have with our community partners."

Winn's preventive health professionals also closely monitor several trends like Winn emergency room visits with acute symptoms and Stewart-Hunter

elementary school medical absentee rates.

"These rates are a very good indicator of potential trouble," Maj. Ellis said. "For example, if there is a spike in the number of elementary school students missing school because they are sick, it could be an indicator that H1N1 cases are on the rise."

"It's a fine gauge of determining how sick the community is and what we can do to prevent further illness. Be assured, we're being proactive by monitoring these trends, and Winn Army Community Hospital is prepared to handle H1N1."

Editor's Note: Mindy Anderson, Winn Army Community Hospital Public Affairs also contributed to this article.

Winn to free up 200 Primary Care appointments monthly

Mindy Anderson

Winn Army Community Hospital Public Affairs

To free-up approximately 200 Primary Care appointments monthly for our active duty servicemembers, their Families and TRICARE Prime beneficiaries, Winn Army Community Hospital and Tuttle Army Health Clinic will no longer see TRICARE Standard patients for primary care or telephone consults, beginning Nov. 1.

Similarly, Winn will not see TRICARE beneficiaries who have a network (non-Military Treatment Facility) Primary Care Manager for Primary Care or telephone consults. Exceptions will be made for children requiring school physicals.

If a provider in the emergency room refers someone for follow-up care, it is that individual's responsibility to make his or her own appointment with a civilian provider of their choosing, said Capt. Christian Nelson, chief, Clinical Support Division at Winn.

According to Nelson, Winn can only provide primary care to patients who are enrolled in either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Plus. If eligible, Winn encourages enrollment in TRICARE.

"If patients elect not to, or are not eligible for enrollment, we urge you to

select a primary care provider in the local community to ensure continuity of medical care," Capt. Nelson said.

Whether someone is enrolled in TRICARE or not, they're eligible for care at Winn.

"Patients can always use our Pharmacy, Laboratory, X-ray, and Emergency Room services at Winn," said Capt. Nelson.

For up-to-date assistance with finding a provider who participates in TRICARE or Medicare, call Humana Military Healthcare Services at 800-444-5445 or visit www.humana-military.com.

If enrolled in TRICARE and you need clarification of status or benefits, or you would like to sign up for TRICARE, visit the TRICARE Service Center located on Harmon Ave., building 202, next to the Ambulance Facility, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays.

If needed, contact Humana Military Healthcare Services at (800) 444-5445 to check your eligibility/enrollment status. To learn more about TRICARE, call Julie Lovelady at (912) 435-6716.

For patients at Hunter Army Airfield, TRICARE Services is located at the Tuttle Army Health Clinic on Duncan Drive, building 1402, in the main entrance. For more information, call Jackie Curran at (912) 315-3646.

Winn drive-thru flu vaccine still available, today and Friday



Mindy Anderson, WACH Public Affairs

Lajuan Dewitt, Winn Preventive Medicine Clinic, administers the seasonal flu vaccine to a Fort Stewart Family Member during the first day of Winn's Drive-Thru Flu Clinic. It's not too late; you still have today and Friday. Stop by the Winn Army Medical Center between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

3rd HBCT Soldiers kick off deployment

Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – When Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division waved “goodbye” to their loved ones and climbed on the bus that took them to the plane to haul them overseas, they were not going to Iraq. Not just yet.

After almost 48 hours, Sledgehammer Soldiers stepped off the plane in Ali Al Salem in Kuwait City. This time without the fanfare, they loaded another bus headed for the first leg of their deployment: Camp Buehring.

Over the three weeks to follow, 3rd HBCT Soldiers conducted a series of training events while getting acclimated to the dry heat and time zone change of the Middle East.

For Specialist Cathlynn Shagonaby, a Grand Rapids, Mich., native serving in Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, four days was all it took to adapt to the changes.

“I think the month we spent at (the National Training Center) helped weather-wise,” she said. “To get used to the time I just tried to stay up until it was time

to go to sleep, Kuwait time.”

“The training schedule allowed little flexibility for Soldiers to have trouble acclimating. Troops hit the ground running as training here is meant to protect the Soldier,” explained Capt. Nicholas James, assistant operations officer for the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. “The training is based on problems we’ve seen. A lot of Soldiers are killed from IEDs and vehicle roll-overs. It’s important to look out for Soldier’s safety.”

Camp Buehring is the final time the 3rd HBCT will train as a whole before moving north into Iraq. Soldiers spent 30 days training at Fort Benning during Hammer Focus and then another 30 days at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif.

“The training in Kuwait offers different tastes than NTC, hence more variety,” said 3rd HBCT Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson. “Where previous training events, we were focusing heavily on the brigade as a whole; in Kuwait, we are able to get individual and platoon-level training.”

The current 2009 training at Camp Buehring is Command Sgt. Maj. Pearson’s third with



Courtesy photo, Company G, 203rd BSB

Soldiers of Company G, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd HBCT, 3rd ID, attached to the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, conduct convoy training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 20. Much of the training performed at Camp Buehring was designed to teach Soldiers the proper techniques during hazardous conditions they might face in Iraq.

the brigade. He said he is always impressed with the training.

“The training incorporates the latest tactics, techniques, and procedures from Iraq,” he said. “We will be better prepared as a result.”

Command Sergeant Major Pearson said the 3rd HBCT Soldiers will spend the next approximately 365 days advising and assisting the Iraqi security forces so they will be able to secure Iraq with minimal out-

side help.

Captain James is certain training will continue in conjunction with the accomplishment of the mission during the unit’s deployment to southern Iraq.

3SB Soldier promoted to Capt via VTC

Capt. Robert S. Burnett
260th QM Co., 3rd Sustainment Brigade

Being promoted is a landmark event in any Soldier’s life. However, being promoted while deployed can be a bittersweet moment when the Soldier’s Family and friends can’t be present. Enter modern technology. Captain Stephen Williams, 260th Quartermaster Battalion (PS), now deployed as the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, was promoted from first lieutenant to captain via video-teleconference, Oct. 5.

The VTC allowed him to get his Family involved from a distance. His father, Gene Williams, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, administered the Oath of Office to

his son via video teleconference from the battalion’s conference room at Hunter Army Airfield, while the 260th battalion commander, Lt. Col. Joe Dixon, promoted him. The Oath of Office is given to every officer in the U.S. Army when they are promoted to the next rank.

“Taking the oath from my dad means a lot,” Capt. Williams said. “I’ve always looked up to him, as an officer and a father. He’s always been there for me, and he’s the first one I go to for advice. I’m really glad he was able to be part of today.”

The communications section for the battalion coordinated the event to ensure it was as momentous as he wanted it to be.

“It’s a great privilege to have my Family be part

of this moment, in spite of the time and distance that separates us,” Capt. Williams said. “I can’t say thank you enough to everyone who made that possible.”



Capt. Robert S. Burnett

First Lieutenant Stephen Williams raises his hand to take the Oath of Office for his video-teleconference promotion to captain. The oath was administered by his father, Lt. Col. Gene Williams, (USAF, Ret.) and witness by Lt. Col. Joe Dixon, 260th battalion commander.

3rd HBCT Soldiers make their mark in Kuwait

Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The temperature outside is climbing into the mid-nineties as Sgt. John Direny, a water treatment specialist assigned to Company A, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, meticulously paints the small letters on the mural he is crafting. The mural, painted on one of the hundreds of concrete road barriers that dot Camp Buehring, has been a two-day project so far and he still has a long way to go.

“It takes time to get it right,” he explains. “I had some-

one to help me paint the Marne patches the first day, but the rest I’ve done on my own.”

A few barriers down, Sgt. T.J. Forbes and Pfc. Skylar Humburd, both assigned to Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, work on their own mural for their Squadron. Around the corner, two more Soldiers, Sgt. Mario Benjamin III, an MP assigned to the 317th Military Police Battalion, and Pfc. Joe Sudik, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters’ Troop, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, are painting the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team’s mural.

Countless murals like these decorate the 8-foot barriers that surround and protect the roads, living pads and buildings on Camp Buehring.

For the Sledgehammer Soldiers working on their unit’s mural, the chance to add to this collection is an opportunity to add to their unit’s reputation and history.

“It is very important that we let the Soldiers that follow us know that we were here,” said Sgt. Direny. “We got ready to go to war just like them. When they see this, hopefully, they will see that we did our best to represent our unit,

the brigade and the 3rd Infantry Division.”

Sergeant Forbes has deployed with the 3rd HBCT three times and each time he has painted one of these murals for his unit. During his current trip to Buehring, he checked to see how his last mural was holding up against a year and a half of sun, sand and wind.

“It’s still there,” he said. “It still looks good, in my opinion.”

Sergeant Forbes understands that the mural represents more than his artistic ability on display.

“It’s about unit pride and building up morale,” he said. “I imagine a few of our new scouts saw the old one and realized that they are part of a unit that has done this before. Hopefully, that makes them walk a little taller and prouder.”

He also considers an important part of his unit’s upcoming deployment.

“You have to believe in what you are doing and the unit you are a part of,” Sgt. Forbes said.

“How you view your unit is also the way you view the Army as a whole. We want Soldiers that take pride in who they are, what they are doing and the group they are a part of. I think this is a part of that.”



Sgt. Ben Hutto

Private First Class Skylar Humburd, a scout assigned to Headquarters Troop, 3/1 Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd ID, works on his battalion’s mural at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 23. He and his partner, Sgt. T.J. Forbes, want to leave future 3/1 Cav. Regt. Soldiers something to take pride in.

Soldiers share bedtime stories from half a world away

Sgt. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Mercedes Figueroa has a nighttime ritual every night before she goes to sleep at her home in Phenix City, Ala. Every night before she goes to sleep her father, Staff Sgt. Freddie Figueroa, reads her at least three books.

“She loves to be read to,” said Staff Sgt. Figueroa. “It’s something that is really special for both of us.”

Staff Sergeant Figueroa’s recent deployment to Iraq with the rest of his fellow Soldiers in Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment will delay story time for the next year, but a program offered by the USO at Camp Buehring will allow the father and daughter to stay connected.

The United Through Reading pro-

gram allows deployed servicemembers to record themselves reading a book to their children and then mails the recording and the book back home to the serviceman’s Family for free.

“This is a great program and the books really become Family heirlooms,” said Malcolm Marson, a duty manager at Camp Buehring’s USO. “I try to relax the Soldiers and tell them to imagine that they are in their living rooms with their family sitting there with them. You see some really hard boiled guys come here with scowls on their faces and leave with the biggest grins.”

The program focuses on giving Soldier’s Families a visual, interactive form of communication, said Marson.

“It’s much more in-depth than a phone call because a child can see their parent and actually hold the same

book their parent was holding,” he said. “They can replay that DVD as many times as they want to. It just doesn’t end when the phone hangs up.”

Soldiers from every battalion in the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team have taken advantage of the program. As their time at Camp Buehring begins to shorten and their movement to Iraq is set to begin, Soldiers are trying to get into multiple sessions to tide their children over until they can come home and read to them personally.

“I have five children and I’m trying to make sure they all have a book,” said Spc. Jeremy Bills, a Soldier in Company D, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment. “I’m reading everything from Dr. Seuss to Harry Potter to make sure all my kids have a book. It means I’ll be up here at least five nights to get it in, but it is

worth it.”

Both Staff Sgt. Figueroa’s and Spc. Bills’ wives are reading to their children in their husband’s absence.

“Hopefully, this can give her a break for a night,” said Spc. Bills. “I’m hoping to surprise her with these books coming in the mail. Having a large Family with me away from home is tough, but anything I can do to help her is a big deal for me.”

Staff Sergeant Figueroa says by sending these books home, he is letting his wife and daughter know he is still thinking about them.

“Things like this help you take care of home,” he said. “If home is taken care of, you can focus on your mission. I know my wife and daughter know that I love them, but it never hurts to do something to let them know that you are still thinking about them.”

10th Trans Co trains for airlift and convoy ops

Spc. Patience Okhoufu
260th Quartermaster Battalion

The Boeing C17 Globemaster III, the Air Force's most capable large transportation aircraft used for rapid strategic and tactical airlift of troops and cargo, landed on Hunter Army Airfield as part of a Joint Airlift and Convoy Operation exercise conducted by Soldiers of 1st and 3rd Platoons, 10th Transportation Company, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, Oct. 7.

The training, which focused on transportation operation, deployment and redeployment, and mobility operation, started with the Soldiers practicing how to back vehicles into a mock C17 two weeks prior to "deployment." In this case, the Soldiers deployed to North Auxiliary Airfield in Charleston, S.C., some by air, others by ground convoy. Those who drove left two hours before the "bird" landed.

The C17 crew, along with 10th Trans. Co., loaded the first set of vehicles into the aircraft, then embarked on 20-minute flight back to Charleston. On their second trip back to Hunter Army Airfield, Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, 3rd Infantry Division deputy commanding general-support, greeted and commended the Soldiers and Airmen for a well executed mission.

Members of the Combat Readiness/Safety Center, from Fort Rucker, Ala., recorded the loading and the unloading of the vehicles to create a 3D simulation as part of their Virtual Training tool for unit movement operation (ground, air, rail, and sea).

When the C17 Globemaster III landed in Charleston, the convoy was there waiting. Later, the airlifted vehicles joined the ground convoy and returned



Photos by Spc. Patience Okhoufu

ABOVE: Airman Brandon Killen of the 437th Airlift Wing, Charleston, S.C., guides Private 1st Class Sean Shreves, 10th Trans. Co., 260th QM Bn., into the C17 Globemaster III at the North Auziliary Airfield in Charleston, Oct. 7.

RIGHT: Staff Sergeant Mike Folk of the 437th Airlift Wing in Charleston, S.C., secures the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle onto the C17 Globemaster III as part of a Joint Airlift and Convoy Operation exercise.



to Hunter.

"This was a great opportunity given to us, and I am glad we were able to carry out the mission efficiently," said 2nd Lt. Lovetta Tate, 3rd Platoon leader. "We learned a lot from this exercise

and are looking forward to more of this type of training. As the saying goes practice makes perfect. The more often we engage in similar training, the quicker it will be for us to load and unload."

1/10th Avn Soldiers, volunteers awarded for service

J. Elise Van Pool
Public Affairs Specialist

It was a long-awaited celebration, as Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, gathered in Savannah to honor their hard work during their recently completed deployment from Iraq. Soldiers of the 1/10 Avn. were presented with the awards earned during

their recently completed deployment. The ceremony was held in the ball room of the Savannah Marriot, and was attended by officials from the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, N.Y.

This deployment to Iraq marked the first time AH-64D Apache Longbows deployed as part of the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade. Throughout the 12-month deployment, the shark-toothed Apaches of 1/10 Attack participated in aerial attack, recon-

naissance, and security operations in support of ground units from the Brigade Combat Teams across Multi-National Division-North.

Awards presented included the Bronze Star, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. In all, 392 awards were presented to Soldiers and 57 to volunteers. Approximately 800 people were in attendance to honor the service of the 1/10 Avn.

Local vets honor Maine residents at Warrior's Walk

Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda M. Lawson
3rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

With Veterans Day just a couple of weeks away, many community members are already looking for ways to honor those who have served their country.

However, for W. Clark Craven, waiting those two weeks would have taken too long.

During a recent visit to Warrior Walk, Craven, an Army retiree and Hinesville resident, and his friend Donald Duplessis, also a retiree who works for the state of Maine, were taken by the serenity of the park. But they noticed that one thing was missing.

"It did not seem right that there were no state flags," Craven said.

Duplessis, a member of the Mane chapter of the Patriot Guard Motorcycle Club, later set out to do something about it. After making numerous phone calls, including to a state senator, he was able to secure flags to place at the trees of each of the Maine residents who are memorial-

ized at Warrior Walk. There were three in all, but Craven and Duplessis hope to contact other chapters of the Patriot Guard to do the same for their own state residents.

"It's a way to honor these guys," Craven said. "They did a lot."

The Patriot Guard is most noted for their efforts to honor fallen servicemembers' funerals by limiting intrusion from protestors.



Photo by Christopher Rich, DPTMS, MVIC

W. Clark Craven, an Army retiree, places a state flag at a tree in Warrior Walk memorializing a 3rd Infantry Division Maine resident. Craven and Donald Duplessis, a state employee in Maine, and a fellow retiree, worked to secure state flags for all Maine residents who are memorialized in Warrior Walk.

Marne Places Marne Faces

Keeping eyes on those who watch the skies

Jennifer Scales

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security is one of the larger directorates of Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. It even reaches out to touch an integral mission at Wright Army Airfield.

Sean Angely, Wright Army Airfield's air traffic control training coordinator, also assigned to DPTMS, is responsible for the training of newly-assigned controllers, whether they are military or civilian individuals. Angely develops their learning curriculum and provides on-the-job training for the staff.

"Controllers, like those in most jobs, must undergo some type of proficiency training," Angely said. "Each airport is different, whether you are here or at Hunter Army Airfield. Wright, for instance, is a Class D dual intersecting strip, whereas Hunter is not."

Some of the training has been PowerPoint based, but as the world has moved forward into the computer age, so has much of the ATC training.

"Air traffic simulations can be done here at our fingertips," Angely said. "With this new system, we can monitor helicopters flying their routes, the Air Force doing runs, C-130's doing (parachute) drops, and missions at all the ranges."

No more calling in or doing manual coordinations or waiting for the "sweep" of the wand over monitors. There are now colors in varying hues on digital displays. Flights can be followed out for 60 miles and even given weather advisories.

"This is light years beyond what we used to have," Angely added.

Anything flying 100 feet off the ground will get picked up the controllers.

Even though it's not an airport like Chicago O'Hare or Atlanta's Hartsfield, operations continue 24 hours a day most of the time at Wright.

"There are rotating crews, so I just alternate as to when I conduct their training," said Angely.

According to Angely, everyone who works at the tower has been in a military uniform at one time. For him, the transition to become Wright ATC training coordinator was as easy as putting on the other shoe. While on active duty, he was an ATC training supervisor at Fort Rucker, Ala., and Camp Humphries, Korea.

With 13 years under his belt in the air traffic control training field, Angely continues to keep his head in books, whether it is for work or personal enhancement. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Embry Riddle and masters degree from Western University. He is currently pursuing another graduate degree.

But this straight-laced native Virginian does find time for some enjoyment. Tennis is one of his

favorite pastimes, in addition to his newlywed status with wife Bobbi, who is a high school counselor at Liberty County High School. Angely also enjoys the time he gets to spend with his son, Travis.

One look at him as he explains more about his job and his satisfaction in it, and you might be inclined to agree with him on his final comment.

"This is the best job a person could have."



Jennifer Scales

Shawn Angely boots up the system that many of the air traffic controllers at Wright Army Airfield use to train upon. Angely is one of the ATC training coordinators in the Directorate of Plans, Mobilization, Training and Security.



RECYCLING ROUND-UP

9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**Today • Across the street from the Hunter Fitness Center
Friday • Fort Stewart Furniture store parking lot, building 419**

All unwanted and used items such as bicycles, grills, clothing, kitchen appliances, furniture, newspapers and E-waste (used oil, old paint, fluorescent light bulbs, lithium batteries)

Hinesville Downtown Partners
Present

Scarecrow Stroll & Beggars Night
Friday, October 30th ~3:00-6:00 pm
Downtown Hinesville

**Trick-or-Treating,
Scarecrow Stroll,
Hay Rides,
Farmer's Treasure Hunt,
Pumpkin Decorating,
Photo-Ops,
Creepy Crawlies,
and more!**

Contact:
Hinesville Downtown Development Authority
(912)877-4332
discoverdowntown@coastalnow.net



Coastal Courier
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ROBERT F. PIRKLE
Attorney-at-Law



ASK THE JUDGE: What to do when debt collectors call

Capt Scott C. Reitor
Legal Assistance Office

A debt collector is someone who regularly collects debts owed to others. This can be a collection agency, a lawyer who collects debts on a regular basis, or companies that buy delinquent debts and then try to collect them. If a debt collector gets pushy or rude, it helps to know your rights:

Q: *A debt collector is calling me every day... how can I stop him from calling?*

A: You should always talk to a debt collector the first time they call. Find out if they have the right person and find out what debt they are trying to collect. In some cases, the information they have is incorrect, and the problem can be solved with no further contact from the debt collector. You have no obligation to confirm the debt as valid or acknowledge you owe it. Tell the debt collector you do not want them to call you and request his mailing address.

Write a letter telling the debt collector you do not want to be contacted regarding the debt. Make a copy of your letter to keep and mail the original to the debt collector by certified mail with a return receipt requested. The return receipt will be your proof that the debt collector received the letter. Once they have received the letter, you can only be contacted to tell you there will be no further contact by that debt collector or to tell you that they or the original creditor will take specific action, such as filing a lawsuit. If the debt is sold to another collector, you will have to send another letter to the new one.

Q: *How can I stop a debt collector from calling my friends, Family, or work place?*

A: If you are represented by an attorney concerning a debt, the debt collector must contact the attorney. If you do not have an attorney, the collector can contact other people, but only to locate your

address, phone number, and where you work. In most cases, they cannot contact a third party more than once. The debt collector is also generally prohibited from discussing your debt with anyone other than you, your spouse or your attorney.

Q: *How can I stop a debt collector from calling me all day and night, and calling at work?*

A: Debt collectors cannot contact you at inconvenient times or places unless you agree. They cannot call before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. If you tell them you are not permitted to receive calls at work, they cannot contact you at work.

Q: *Does a debt collector have to prove the debt is valid?*

A: Yes. Within five days of calling you about a debt, the

collector must send a written collection letter showing how much you owe, who you owe the debt to, and how to dispute the debt if you think it is invalid. Once he has sent you this letter, you can reply disputing the debt. You must send this ‘validation letter’ within 30 days of receiving the collection letter. The collector will then send some sort of proof, like a copy of a bill. Once the collector has sent this proof, he can resume his collection efforts.

Q: *A debt collector got really nasty with me and said he was going to have me arrested... can he do that?*

A: *There are many things debt collectors are prohibited from doing or saying. Here are some of the more frequently encountered things a debt collector cannot do:*

- Threaten violence or harm
- Publish names of debtors
- Use obscene language
- Harass you
- Claim they are attorneys

(unless they are)

- Claim you have committed a crime
- Claim they work for a credit reporting company
- Falsely state a form is or is not a legal form
- Threaten to have you arrested
- Say they will garnish your pay (without a court order)
- Threaten to sue you (unless they intend to)
- Charge a fee or fine that isn’t part of your original contract
- Threaten to take your property without a legal right to
- Contact you by postcard

The Federal Trade Commission is the government office that regulates debt collection practices. The information in this article and many other great consumer resources can be found on their web page at www.ftc.gov/. For more information or assistance about debt collection, make an appointment to speak with a legal assistance attorney. At Fort Stewart visit building 621, or call 767-8809/8819; at Hunter, visit building 1211, or call 315-5115.

HOLIDAY MAILING DEADLINES

EMMS: Express Mail Military Service is available to selected post offices. Check with your local Post Office to determine if this service is available to your APO/FPO of address.

PAL: PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must

be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

SAM: SAM parcels are paid at Parcel Post postage rate of postage maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

DESTINATION	EXPRESS	1st CLASS	PRIORITY	PAL	SAM	PARCEL POST
APO/FPO AE 090- 092	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 27	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE 093	N/A	Dec. 4	Dec. 4	Dec. 1	Nov. 20	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE 094-098	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 27	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE 340	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 27	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE 962-966	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 27	Nov. 13

Red Ribbon Week



Oct. 23 - Oct. 31

"No Use of Illegal Drugs,
No Illegal Use of Legal
Drugs"

Dream • Believe • Achieve • Succeed

Endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker population showing comeback at Stewart

Tommy Holland

Directorate of Public Works

Have you ever driven through Fort Stewart and wondered, "Why are those big pine trees flagged with reflective white bands?" Those bands are used to mark trees that contain the homes of an endangered species known as the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

Fort Stewart has a growing population of the federally endangered species and must do everything in its power to protect the birds and the trees in which they nest. It is the responsibility of Fort Stewart's Fish and Wildlife Branch to closely monitor and protect these birds.

One way they are able to do this is by locating trees where RCWs live and marking them with reflective white bands.

The RCW is the only woodpecker that excavates a cavity for nesting and roost-

ing in living pine trees.

So, the next time you notice a group of trees with those white bands, look closely and you will also notice that most of them are stained white from resin (or sap) flowing down their trunks. This happens when an RCW hollows out an area of the tree to use as its home.

In order to provide a suitable home, the tree must be a large, old pine tree. The birds prefer longleaf pines because they produce more resin than other southern pines. As the woodpecker excavates a cavity, the tree reacts by exuding resin from the living sapwood.

For this reason, the RCW must drill past the sapwood and into the inactive heartwood to create a suitable nest cavity, or else resin will fill the cavity. The resin is sticky as it flows down the tree trunk and it serves as a barrier to potential nest predators such as snakes.

It may take several years for an RCW to

complete a natural cavity, and availability of cavities is a limiting factor in the growth of RCW populations.

After Hurricane Hugo decimated the Francis Marion National Forest in 1989, the U.S. Forest Service developed a method to install artificial cavities in living pine trees. This involves cutting a hole in the tree, and inserting a wooden birdhouse in the hole. This technique requires less than an hour to provide a young RCW a new home, and has vastly improved the outlook for the survival of the species.

The RCW cavities, both natural and artificial, are also used by other wildlife species such as bluebirds, red-bellied woodpeckers, flycatchers, white-breasted nuthatches, and flying squirrels.

The Fort Stewart Fish & Wildlife Branch has installed approximately 1,460 artificial RCW cavities and continues to install new cavities and replace those that are

no longer suitable. The artificial cavities have played a critical role in the success of the RCW population at Fort Stewart. Since 1994, there has been a steady increase in our RCW population.

We currently have 315 RCW family groups on the installation and our goal is to increase that number to 350 in the near future.

Reaching our goal of 350 RCW family groups will allow the installation to eliminate military training restrictions associated with the RCW. Elimination of training restrictions will also result in the removal of the white, reflective bands that are used to mark RCW nests.

Until that time, whether you're hunting, fishing, training, or just passing through Fort Stewart, remember that those white flagged trees are someone's home, and that military training and RCW survival are not mutually exclusive.

Stewart's Taylors Creek, Pleasant Grove protected as 'Traditional Cultural Property'

Joseph Paul Maggioni

Directorate of Public Works

Fort Stewart carefully manages a variety of historic properties. Mainly they are historic buildings such as Glisson Store, building 15098, and archaeological sites, including the Lewis Mound and Fort Argyle. Another type of resource the installation recognizes and protects is a "Traditional Cultural Property," of which there are two on the installation: Pleasant Grove and Taylors Creek Cemeteries. Traditional Cultural Properties are sites or objects with fundamental spiritual or cultural value for a particular group of people. In the cemeteries' case, these people are the former residents of Taylors Creek and their descendants. Their roots in this land are deep indeed.

If driving to the site on Georgia Highway 144, the cemeteries mark out where the two community churches once stood. Taylors Creek Cemetery was established in 1841, when the original Taylors Creek Methodist Church was moved to the site. Pleasant Grove Cemetery was founded later in the 1800s, after the establishment of the Pleasant Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1867.

Founded as early as the 1760s, the town of Taylors Creek weathered the Civil War and emerged as a very prosperous community by the 1880s with the development of the turpentine industry. For Taylors Creek, the centrality of religion and family was expressed by the two camp meetings held every October, making the town an informal religious and spiritual center for the general area beginning as early as 1807. These annual outdoor religious revivals stretched over the course of five days. The camp meeting moved to the Taylors Creek Campground around 1819. This site is about one mile east of Taylors Creek cemetery, which eventually featured a central tabernacle, surrounded by wood cabins called "tents." The camp meeting was a five-day affair, and in addition to services, featured family reunions, business

meetings, and lots of food.

Isaac Porter recalled "[When] I was young—I used to go to those revivals... they had a square with a Tabernacle in the middle where they had the camp meetings and all that. They had a big platform and wood up there burning..."

In 1919, the Pleasant Grove AME Church and cemetery became the site of an African-American camp meeting. The Reverend Henry Frasier, then a young boy, recalled the Pleasant Grove camp meetings.

"Booths... stood there and they would be down the path as you're going up to the church. This one would have a little booth over here, that one would have a little booth over there, you know, that they sold peanuts, and sugar cane, and apples, and oranges," he said. "They would take their food together, and they didn't have tables so they [used an] old straw bale... they took a sheet or towel and they just put it on that straw and they would put the food out on that and everybody would come by and eat."

In 1941, when the Army acquired Taylors Creek along with 280,000 acres of other property to establish Camp Stewart, the village had about three hundred residents, a school, turpentine distilleries, gristmills, a cotton gin, a sawmill, numerous stores, the Taylors Creek Methodist Church and cemetery, and the Pleasant Grove AME Church and cemetery. The Taylors Creek and Pleasant Grove camp meetings were still going strong, attracting hundreds of people from as far away as Savannah and Brunswick each October.

With the coming of the U.S. Army, the former residents of Taylors Creek moved to Richmond Hill, Pembroke, Savannah, Hinesville, and other communities in the area. But they never forgot their home, the relationships they had with their neighbors, or the camp meetings held every October in those piney woods.

Immediately after the war, former residents established the Taylors Creek Cemetery Association and

began attending Taylors Creek reunions on the site of the old Taylors Creek Cemetery. This tradition has continued for over 60 continuous years. Pleasant Grove AME Church was reestablished in Hinesville in the 1940s and has been holding mostly biannual meetings at the Pleasant Grove AME Cemetery, beginning in 1985. These cemetery reunions are celebrations of food, fellowship, and family, and a remembrance of a simpler time of shared community and religion. The cemeteries are to these former residents both a connection to their earliest ancestors and a way to pass on family history and heritage to younger generations—a conduit for childhood memories of a time and place far away from the present. It is bound up in a profound Christian faith, a dedication to family, and even of a bittersweet sense of patriotism, remembering their sacrifice their country asked of them during World War II.

The town is now gone, a casualty of that war, but Taylors Creek remains very much alive in the hearts and minds of its former residents and their descendants. This is best expressed by the former Reverend Henry Frasier.

"So many times...we forget our ancestors, you know. We bury them, we go off and leave them...We go out there to keep hope alive...I think that every chance we get to go out there, not only does it just help us, but it educates the others, young folks that we have going out there with us... We're hoping that it would grow in them so that when we're gone they will continue to keep the process going...because this is where it all started and we just love that spot."

Among former Taylors Creek residents there is an undeniable shared pride and spiritual connection to place expressed in these cemetery reunions. It is this pride of place and sense of spiritual connection that makes both cemeteries, as Traditional Cultural Properties, protected and valued resources for the Installation and the former residents of Taylors Creek.

VOICE

from Page 1A

"Voice of the Customer" means meeting current as well as future customer requirements, while safeguarding human health, improving quality of life, and enhancing our natural environment," Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Col. Kevin W. Milton told

participants. "We will integrate the 'Voice of the Customer' into our day-to-day operations in much the same way we have made safety an integral part of how we work."

The off-site command team that consisted of the Stewart-Hunter Senior Commander Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips, Col.

Milton, Stewart-Hunter Garrison Command Sergeant Major James Ervin, Deputy Commander Michael Biering, Hunter Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar, Hunter Deputy Commander Kewyn Williams, and Hunter Command Sgt. Maj. David Sampleton. There were also

subject matter experts from both on-post and surrounding communities.

Realizing the fundamental purpose of the installation is to house, train and deploy Soldiers while providing the highest possible quality of life for Soldier, Family Members and the civilian workforce and optimizing resources, the workshop broke down in quality management boards named after their focus, including Well Being, Safe and Secure, Optimizing Resources, Training Support, and Power Projection and Readiness.

Representatives from surrounding communities, including Liberty, Bryan and Chatham Counties, the cities of Savannah, Hinesville, Richmond Hill, and the Office of Economic Adjustment, joined forces with installation's Directorates, agencies, and tenant units such as United States Army Dental Command; Winn Army Community Hospital and the Georgia Garrison Training Center, among others to focus customer needs, on-post and off.

With input from customers and the Organizational Self Assessment, customer survey, the workshop tackled subjects that covered the full spectrum of services, including housing,

medical services, transportation, natural resources, employment opportunities, and the 2010 Census. The experts focused on determining common levels of service and tools to measure success or needs for improvement.

Best selling author and nationally renowned business management consultant Mark Graham Brown, who wrote such books as Baldrige Award Winning Quality—17th Edition, How to Interpret the Baldrige Criteria for Performance; and Beyond the Balanced Scorecard, Improving Business Intelligence with Analytics was also brought in for leaders to hear his insight into the installation's process.

Customers are encouraged to make their voice be heard in the decision process. According to Customer Management Services at Stewart-Hunter, www.stewart.army.mil/paiao/cms.asp, there are tiers to customer feedback, including the Interactive Customer Evaluation system; Community FIRST (Feedback, Issues, Resolutions, Solutions, Today), a structured process for obtaining, vetting, prioritizing and resolving installation level issues that cannot be addressed through the ICE system; and customer assessments.



Christopher Rich, MVIC

A fire drill held in the early morning was one of the unscheduled events at the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Strategic Planning Workshop at the Crown Plaza in Hilton Head, S.C., Oct. 23. Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield held its annual Strategic Planning Workshop Oct. 20-23 in Hilton Head, S.C. where leaders from the installation and surrounding communities further their efforts in meeting customer needs, to include, among other issues, education opportunities, medical care and services for Soldiers, Family Members and the civilian workforce.

PINK

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Soldier's voices rang out as they sang in cadence, "Paint the town pink," an intonation they wrote especially for the run. As the Soldiers passed supportive citizens along the streets, children stood outside of schools and daycare centers along the route and held pink, red, white and blue balloons while cheering for the troops. The Paint the Town Pink initiative run was an effort to bring awareness to Soldiers, their Families, and those in the community about the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

The Center for Disease Control defines cancer as a disease that causes cells in the body to grow out of control, and when the cancer starts in the breast, it is called breast cancer.

Three months ago, one new Army officer was on a quest to climb the career ladder and vowed to continue to serve and protect American lives. Yet in the midst of her quest, a self-breast exam changed her life course. Today, she now helps bring to light the importance of early detection.

Firstlieutenant Andrea Graham, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, bravely stood before 500 Soldiers and many others in the Savannah community and told them something that she at first wanted to keep private. She said she felt as a leader her effectiveness would be jeopardized if she came forward with her news. In August 2009, 1st Lt. Graham was diagnosed with stage one, invasive breast cancer. Though she said it was difficult to divulge personal information, she felt it important that everyone be aware of the need for early detection.

"I didn't detect my breast cancer through a mammogram," 1st Lt. Graham said. "I found the lump myself."

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 192,370 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to occur in U.S. women this year, and approximately 1,910 in men. These estimates did not go unnoticed by 260th QM Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Lillard Evans. He said what is most important to him is awareness.

"We want Soldiers to be aware that early treatment and mammograms are key to the eradication this disease," he said. "There is a lot of research going on but right now. We don't have a solution to the research, so our way of getting at this (disease) is through early detection."

In a special ceremony at the end of the run, Paul Henchy, chief executive officer of St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital in Savannah, expressed his pride in the Soldiers who stood in formation before him.

"I can't thank you enough for protecting us all in the military sense," he said. "For all of you to try to protect us in a clinical sense is really an added dimension."

Referring to the Lewis Cancer Research Pavilion building, Henchey said they have all of the state-of-art equipment and technology, but if women detect breast cancer early, a positive outcome can derive from a tragic diagnosis.

To a round of applause and cheers of "hooahs," 1st Lt. Graham charged Soldiers to talk to friends, and Family about self-exams and mammography.

"I have been in the Army 16 years," said 1st Lt. Graham, who served as an enlisted Soldier first. "I understand the dedication of being a Soldier," she added. "I have decided that I will take a leave of absence, get healthy, fight cancer, get back in the fight and lead Soldiers."



Spc. Patience Okhoufu

Lieutenant Colonel Shawn Morrissey, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Bde and Lt. Col. Lillard Evans, commander of the 260th QM Bn. lead the 260th QM Co. past Memorial Day School students, faculty, and staff during the Paint the Town Pink run, Oct. 23. The Paint the Town Pink initiative run was an effort to bring awareness to Soldiers, their Families, and those in the community about the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

2HBCT cases Colors, says farewell

2nd HBCT Public Affairs

The Spartan Brigade marked the beginning of their fourth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom by casing their brigade colors in a ceremony held on Cottrell Field, Oct. 23.

The Spartans will deploy to Iraq with the distinction of being the first BCT-A Brigade with a role of advising and assisting the Iraqi Security Forces under the Security Forces Agreement.

"We'll still be taking action, but our main focus will be to help the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police become more proficient so that they can act as the true sovereign nation that they are," Col. Sexton said.

The casing ceremony featured an inspection of

troops by the Brigade Commander Col. Charles E. A. Sexton, and a pass and review by each of the battalions: 1/64th Armor, 1/30th Infantry, 1/9th Field Artillery, 3/7th Cavalry, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Colonel Sexton applauded the Families of those deploying for their support in the months leading up to the ceremony and for their continued support in the months to come.

He assured them their Soldiers were ready and more than capable to perform their duties in while in Iraq.

"This is the beginning of the deployment," Col. Sexton said. "The faster we get it over with, the faster we get home to our Families in coastal

Georgia."

Families and loved ones of the deploying Soldiers showed their support by filling bleachers and the reviewing stand during the ceremony.

As the pass and review began, Family Members flocked to the reviewing line to catch a glimpse of their special Soldier as they passed by.

Kerry Holt, a spouse from HHC Brigade, said that she was proud of what her husband and the Soldiers of the Spartan Brigade were doing in service to our nation.

"I'm not looking at this as a deployment," Holt said. "I'm looking at it as a way to make history, and that we're a part of 3rd ID. It makes me proud that my husband is doing something to protect myself and our son."



Photos by Pfc. Gregory Gieske

Soldiers from the 2nd HBCT stand in formation during the brigade's Casing of the Colors ceremony, Oct. 23.

ABOVE: Standing on the large Marne Patch on Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field, Command Sgt. Maj. Valmond A. Martin, 2nd HBCT, holds the Headquarters and Headquarters Company flag into position as 2nd HBCT Commander Col. Charles E. A. Sexton rolls the brigade Colors, symbolizing the closing and soon deployment of 2nd HBCT, Oct. 23.

LEFT: Raising the 2nd HBCT, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Colors one last time before lowering them during the Colors Casing ceremony at Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field, Soldiers from 2nd HBCT display a symbol of retreat and deployment for Spartan Brigade, Oct. 23.



WWII vets take Honor Flight

Carroll Baker, American Red Cross volunteer

Several volunteers from the 260th Quartermaster Battalion, along with Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar, Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, were at Hunter's Truscott Air Terminal to welcome home the first returning Honor Flight of WWII veterans from Washington, D.C., Oct. 24. The veterans were returning from a one-day trip to D.C. for a visit to the WWII memorial and Arlington National Cemetary.

TEAM STEWART

www.stewart.army.mil

REDEPLOY

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For Pfc. Jonathan Wagoner, the only thing on his mind was seeing his wife and son again. Although he was allowed to deploy later than the rest of his unit due to the birth of his son, he said there is nothing like being home.

“It was very hard,” he said of leaving his newborn son. “It was like he’s born and ‘here you go, Mom.’”

His wife, Krystal, did her best to stay in touch and keep him abreast of Family news, but seeing him again was a different story. She was the first person to charge the field once the unit’s welcome ceremony ended.

“I dared somebody to beat me out there,” she said with a laugh. “I was overwhelmed, just the fact that I get to see him again after all this time.”

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lawson

Sergeant Jeffery Roberge holds his son Jayden, 2, during the 90th HR Co. redeployment ceremony at Cottrell Field, Oct. 23.

BELOW: Specialist Tony Noakes embraces his daughter during the 90th HR Co. redeployment ceremony at Cottrell Field, Oct. 23.



ABOVE: Staff Sergeant Alvin Wells is greeted by his Family during the 90th HR Co. redeployment ceremony at Cottrell Field, Oct. 23.

Check out the November issue of
Quality Time, with Beaufort,
South Carolina featured.